tonnes of wheat and rice were available in the central pool as against the minimum buffer stocking norms of 243.00 lakhs tonnes as per the details given below:

	Minimum Buffer Stocking Norms	Stock Position
Rice	100.00	227.50
Wheat	143.00	389.20
TOTAL	243.00	616.70

(b) No starvation death has been reported by any State Government.

(c) There are no starvation deaths.

(d) The Central Government has filed a status report in the Supreme Court in regard to the implementation of various Schemes by the State Governments. The matter is still subjudice.

Help to America to fight against Afghanistan

† 1879. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether America had sought any help or facility from India on the issue of war with Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether India, on its own has offered to extend any facility to America in the War?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has consistently taken a principled stand against terrorism and its sponsors everywhere in the world and supports all international efforts, including in the United Nations, to combat terrorism. Following the terrorist attacks in the United States

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on September 11, Government has offered, on the basis of specific requests by the United States, assistance for the "Operation Enduring Freedom" in conformity with the existing guidelines for such clearances requested by friendly countries. These are overflight, landing and refuelling facilities for U.S. air missions and port calls by naval ships in support of the campaign in Afghanistan. The assistance approved by Government does not cover provision of military bases in India to the United States or participation in combat operations in any form.

Role of Indian Missions to step up foreign trade

1880. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Indian Missions abroad to step up foreign trade for the economic development of the country;

(b) whetehr any review of the achievements has been made by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the percentage of the country's share of global trade rose during 1999—2001 (till date) as compared to the previous year; and

(d) the policy changes, if any, contemplated by Government for greater involvement of the Indian Missions in promoting country's foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Indian Missions abroad provide market intelligence and other inputs into policy formulation besides providing support for various export promotion activities, such as, visits of commercial delegations, buyer-seller meets, promotional exhibitions, etc.

(b) Appraisal and review of the performance of Indian Missions overseas in promoting the country's economic interests, including export promotion, is a continuous and ongoing process.

(c) India's exports, as a share of world trade, were 0 61% in 1998, 0.65% in 1999, and 0.67% in 2000.